


vides over U.S. Patent 4,828,547 to Sahi et al. The claim is patentably distinguishable from Sahi et al because, as best seen in Figure 1A of Sahi et al, the surface of structure 16 adjacent to the open end of needle cannula 14 is entirely perpendicular to the axis of the needle. Therefore, if the internal member shown in Sahi et al glides along the internal surface of structure 16, it must encounter a shoulder or "catch surface" which is perpendicular to the needle axis and which will inhibit its entry into the needle bore. In contrast, the claimed method includes making contact with a guide surface which leads axially to the through-bore of the needle and advancing along the guide surface and into the needle bore without engaging such "catch surface".

Identification of the Pending Claims

Claims 1-15, 31-39, 41, 42, claim 49 and claim 50 are pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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